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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[FERC Docket No. PF08-9-000]

Notice of Pre-Filing Environmental Review for the Ruby Pipeline  
Project, Request for Comments on Environmental Issues, and Notice of  
Public Scoping Meetings; Ruby Pipeline, LLC

March 28, 2008

On January 31, 2008, the staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) initiated its pre-filing environmental review of the Ruby Pipeline Project, planned by Ruby Pipeline, LLC (Ruby). FERC staff is now beginning to obtain and evaluate information for the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) that will assess and disclose the environmental impacts of the project, which would involve construction and operation of facilities by Ruby in Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, and Oregon. These facilities would consist of about 680 miles of 42-inch-diameter pipeline, 2 new compressor stations, and related appurtenant facilities. The EIS will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine if the project is in the public convenience and necessity.

This notice announces the opening of a scoping period that will be used to gather environmental input from the public and agencies during the early stages of the project. Comments may be submitted either in written form or verbally. In lieu of or in addition to sending written comments, you are invited to attend the public scoping meetings scheduled in the project area. Further instructions on how to submit written comments and additional details of the public scoping meetings are provided in the Public Participation section of this notice. The scoping period will close on April 30, 2008.

WEEK 1

April 15, 2008--Elko, Nevada, Hilton Garden Inn, 3650 East Idaho St., (775) 777-1200.

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April 16, 2008--Kemmerer, Wyoming, Kemmerer Senior Center, 105 JC Penney Drive, (307) 877-3806.

April 17, 2008--Brigham City, Utah, Box Elder High School Auditorium, 380 South 600 West, (435) 734-4840.

WEEK 2

April 22, 2008--Malin, Oregon, Malin Community Hall, 2307 Front Street, (541) 947-2258.

April 23, 2008--Lakeview, Oregon, Elks Lodge, 323 N. F Street, (541) 947-2258.

April 24, 2008--Winnemucca, Nevada, Winnemucca Convention Center, 50 W. Winnemucca Blvd., (775) 23-5071.

These meetings are designed to provide state and local agencies, interested groups, affected landowners, and the general public with an opportunity to offer comments on the project and on the environmental issues they believe should be addressed in the EIS. A transcript of each meeting will be made so that your comments will be accurately recorded. All meetings are scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. in each respective time zone. All public meetings will be posted on the Commission's calendar located at <http://www.ferc.gov/EventCalendar/EventsList.aspx> along with other related information.

Comments collected during scoping will be a valuable part of the Pre-Filing Process and will help us \1\ determine which issues/impacts need to be evaluated in the EIS. As more details of the project route and design become available, additional scoping may be warranted and the public will be provided with additional opportunities to comment.

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\1\ ``We,'' ``us,'' and ``our'' refer to the environmental staff of the Commission's Office of Energy Projects.

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A ``Pre-Filing Process'' Has Begun

The Commission is initiating its National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review for the Ruby Pipeline Project prior to receiving Ruby's formal application. This Pre-Filing Process allows interested stakeholders to become involved early in the project planning with the intent of identifying and resolving issues before a formal application is filed with the FERC. A docket number (PF08-9-000) has been established to place information filed by Ruby and related documents issued or received by the Commission into the public record.\2\ Once a formal application is filed with the FERC, a new docket number will be established.

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\2\ To view information in the docket, follow the instructions for using the eLibrary link at the end of this notice.

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The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is participating as a cooperating agency in the preparation of the EIS because the project would cross federally administered lands in Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, and Oregon.